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Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

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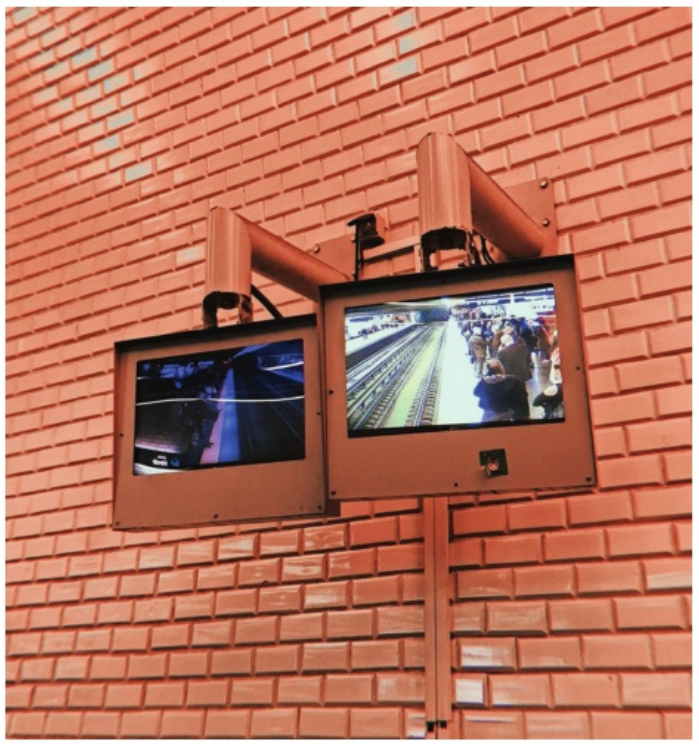
"Currently, 819 CCTV cameras are operational across various SWR stations'

ALL EYES ON THE DECK

South Western Railway to install 3,000 CCTV cameras across 228 stations by March 2025



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In a significant move to enhance safety and security, the South Western Railway (SWR) has announced the installation of over 3,000 CCTV cameras across 228 stations under its jurisdiction by March 2025. This initiative, aimed at strengthening surveillance and monitoring, is part of the larger Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. The station redevelopment project, undertaken at a cost of ₹1,104 crore, focuses on improving passenger amenities while upgrading security infrastructure.

Existing surveillance

A fresh tender has been floated, and by March 2025, SWR plans to have the additional 3,000 cameras installed. "Currently, 819 CCTV cameras are operational across various SWR stations," said a railway official. "However, some have been rendered non-functional due to ongoing developmental work, including disconnected wiring. These will be replaced as part of the new installations," he added.

As part of the initiative, SWR will not only install new CCTV cameras but also upgrade the monitoring panels and control systems to enhance real-time surveillance capabilities. This upgrade will ensure that security personnel can efficiently monitor multiple locations across railway stations, improving response times to any suspicious activities or emergencies. Additionally, non-functional cameras will be systematically replaced to eliminate blind spots and provide comprehensive coverage.

The enhanced surveillance network will focus on key areas such as platforms, entry and exit points, ticket counters, and waiting halls, locations with high passenger movement and potential security risks. By increasing visibility across these critical areas, railway authorities aim to deter crime, assist in crowd management, and ensure the safety of both passengers and railway staff.

High footfall

"With railway stations witnessing a significant increase in passenger footfall, particularly at major transit hubs, ensuring security has become a top priority," said the railway official. "The growing volume of travellers brings challenges such as crowd control, theft, unauthorised access, and emergencies that require immediate intervention," he added. The expansion of CCTV surveillance serves as a measure to address these concerns, allowing authorities to monitor real-time developments, identify security threats, and take prompt action.

All-women crew

Marking the centenary of electric traction in Indian Railways, the Bengaluru Division operated the KSR Bengaluru–Mysuru Rajya Rani Express with an all-women crew on Friday, highlighting the growing role of women in railway operations. Flagged off by Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Ashutosh Mathur, the event is part of Indian Railways' celebrations ahead of February 3, when the country completes 100 years of railway electrification. Mathur emphasised the transformation from steam-powered locomotives to a sustainable, modern electric system and reiterated the commitment to gender inclusivity.

The all-women crew included Loco Pilot Balla Siva Parvathi, Assistant Loco Pilot Ramya Kumari, Train Manager Shailaja, RPF personnel Swaroopini and Varalakshmi, and TTE Anila Zacharia.

Strengthening safety measures

This initiative aligns with SWR's broader efforts to enhance safety and security across its railway network. As part of these measures, 479 children were rescued under the 'Nanhe Farishtey' program, while the 'Jeevan Raksha' initiative successfully saved four passengers in distress in 2024. Additionally, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) intensified its crackdown on illegal ticket touting, identifying 166 cases, prosecuting 170 offenders, and seizing 568 live tickets valued at ₹14 lakh.

HC rules on status of daughters in case of property partition before Dec 2004

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The Karnataka High Court has ruled that daughters born before a partition occurring prior to December 20, 2004 (Amendment to Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act) cannot claim equal status with daughters born after the partition, nor can they claim shares in property allocated to their father or contest property alienation after the 2005 amendment. Justice Anant Ramanathe Hegde delivered this judgement whilst dismissing an appeal by Prafulla M Bhat and others. The appellants contested the trial court's dismissal of their partition suit seeking equal rights in their late father Mahadev's ancestral property, including challenging a gift deed to his second wife. The court stated, "The Parliament intended to save the partitions made before 20.12.2004. Said protection given to the partition effected before 20th December 2004 is to all the properties covered by the said partition, registered/Partition decree/ and certain categories of oral partition. It would disentitle the daughter, who was alive at the time of partition among coparceners that took place before 20th December 2004, to make a claim for partition in the property allotted to the share of the father claiming the status on par with the daughter born to a coparcener after the partition."

Case details

Following Mahadev's first wife's death in 1992, Saraswati Shastri claimed to be his second wife through a 1999 marriage, though the daughters disputed this, claiming she was merely household help. The daughters argued the properties were ancestral, with a registered partition occurring on January 10, 1994, between Mahadev and his two sons, allocating specific properties to each party.

They contended that Section 6's retroactive nature meant they should be considered coparceners from 1956 or their birth date, invalidating the 1994 partition. They also claimed the gift deed resulted from fraud, executed when Mahadev was unwell.

The court noted that while the 2005 amendment granted daughters coparcener status, earlier partitions were protected by law. It upheld the gift deed to Saraswati Shastri, considering Mahadev's circumstances with separated sons and married daughters. The court suggested harmonising Sections 6(1)(b) and 6(5), noting that literal interpretation might deny coparcener status to daughters born after pre-December 20, 2004 partitions, despite Shastric Hindu law granting sons such rights.

Will Tunnel Road dry B'luru out?

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Will the proposed Tunnel Road project affect the borewell water in the vicinity? The Karnataka Rig Association has raised concerns about the potential impact of the proposed tunnel road on groundwater levels. A representative of the association stated that new borewells may not be permitted within a 50-metre radius of the project. Experts warn that residents along the tunnel route may face water scarcity as borewells could become unreliable, increasing dependence on Cauvery water. The exact implications will depend on the project's execution.

Tendering process to begin

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar confirmed that tenders for the ₹17,780-crore tunnel road project will be issued this month. "I have given officials a deadline of three years to complete the project, which will be executed in two phases. Funding will come from both the government and BBMP, with multiple financial institutions expressing interest in supporting the project," he said. Addressing concerns raised by MP PC Mohan, he added, "The tunnel project will be underground and will not require additional land acquisition." To begin with, the BBMP plans to take up the 18.5-km long North-South Corridor tunnel from Esteem Mall, Hebbal, to Silk Board Junction, estimated to cost ₹15,000 crore.

BBMP to Borrow ₹8,000 crore

A senior BBMP official stated that the civic body has invited tenders to secure loans at competitive interest rates. "Nationalised banks and private agencies have shown interest in financing the project. The bids will be opened on January 8," the official said. The total project cost stands at ₹14,981.39 crore, with BBMP required to arrange ₹8,000 crore, while the remaining amount will be covered by the private contractor.

20-year BOT model

The tunnel roads will be developed under the Build, Operate, Transfer (BOT) model, allowing the contractor to collect tolls for 20 years before transferring ownership to BBMP. Toll charges are expected to range between ₹18 and ₹24 per kilometre. Additionally, ₹800 crore has been allocated for acquiring land to construct entry and exit ramps.

Increased costs

The 16.67-km twin tunnel will feature three lanes in each direction, with each tunnel being 10.5 metres wide. Two lanes will be reserved for emergency vehicles. The initial cost per km was estimated at ₹500 crore, but the DPR has revised this to ₹898 crore per km due to enhanced specifications. BBMP officials claim that the proposed tunnel road is expected to drastically cut travel time between Silk Board and Hebbal, reducing the current 90-minute journey—hampered by heavy congestion and an average speed of 10–15 km/h—to just 20 minutes.

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Outdated wiring systems, unauthorised electrical connections and poor maintenance have put city's buildings at risk of fires due to short circuit: 555 such episodes last year

WE DIDN'T START THE FIRE?

...Maybe carelessness towards safety measures did

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The Silicon Valley of India seems to be crackling under a hidden menace—short-circuit fires. With an alarming three incidents occurring every two days, the city is witnessing a surge in electrical fire accidents, highlighting a growing concern over safety lapses and outdated wiring systems.

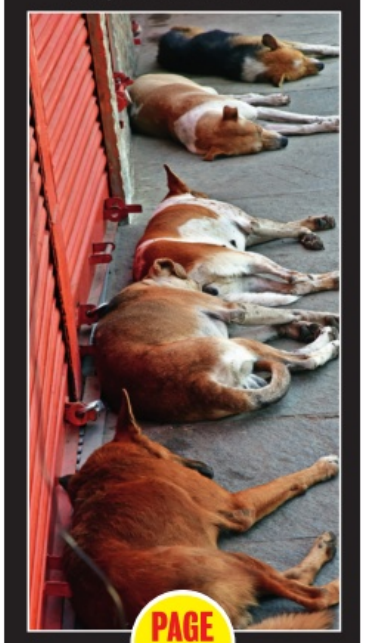
Data from the Fire and Emergency Services Department reveals that Bengaluru reported 555 fire accident cases last year due to short circuits, an average of more than one fire each day. Experts warn that if left unchecked, this could lead to disastrous consequences, putting lives and property at risk.

On Monday, a blaze erupted at the Okinawa Electric Bike Showroom in Rajajinagar, near Kanna Hospital, severely damaging the building and nearly 50 bikes inside. The flames spread rapidly, engulfing the entire showroom

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

STRAY IN CONTROL

Increased capacity of animal birth control centres, facility that can have 200 to 300 kennels planned to keep stray population in check



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THINGS TO DO

01 Family's day out

Troo in Bengaluru: A weekend of creativity, curiosity, & connection for families features 4 interactive sessions tailored to engage children and parents. From hands-on activities & captivating storytelling sessions for kids to thought-provoking round-table discussions, parenting talks, etc., for parents. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: February 1, 11 am & 4 pm & February 2, 4 pm**

02 Sci-fi film festival

Sci560 Film Festival: This free 2-day festival showcases a curated selection of films that explore Bengaluru's scientific heritage, urban narratives, and diverse identities. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: February 1 & 2**

03 Read on

Book Reading & Launch of 'My Book of Alphabites,' a one-of-a-kind accordion-folding book by author-illustrator Alankrita Amaya. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar ; When: February 2, 3 pm**

04 Chasing goals

Nephroplus invites everyone to attend 'Indian Dialysis Olympiad 2025.' Get ready to witness dialysis warriors break barriers, prove their strength, and celebrate life. **Where: Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, West Entry Gate; When: February 2, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm**

05 Stunning solos

The Platform 2025 will feature mesmerising solo performances by two exceptional international artists, Sooraj Subramanian in "Reflections of an Indian Dancer" and January Low in "Pending." **Where: Medai – The Stage; When: February 1, 6:30 pm**

Plans are on to boost capacity of ABC centres to check strays

This move aims to further reduce Bengaluru's stray dog population, boost surgeries in ABC centres; large facility with 200-300 kennel capacity is to be up in Bommanahalli soon

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The stray dog population in Bengaluru has gone down by nearly 10% in the last few years. To further bring down the stray dog population, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to increase the capacity of animal birth control (ABC) centres in the city.

According to Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner of BBMP's Health and Animal Husbandry Department, the capacity of at least two centres—Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli—will be increased soon. "The agency managing the ABC centre in Mahadevapura is focusing on increasing its capacity. Moreover, we are planning to build a big facility for stray dogs in Bommanahalli. A detailed project report for the facility with a 200 to 300-kennel capacity has already been prepared. It will boost the number of ABC surgeries as well and help in bringing down the number of the street dog population," he said.

According to the dog census conducted by the BBMP in 2023, the total number of street dogs in the city has reduced to 2.79 lakh from 3.09 lakh recorded in the previous census conducted in 2019. The census results also show that nearly 72% of the total stray dog population in the city is already neutered. While nearly 75% of the male dogs are neutered, as many as 72.11% of the female stray dog population has undergone ABC surgery.

Drop in ABC surgeries

However, data from the department shows that the number of ABC surgeries conducted by the civic agency this year has declined. BBMP conducted 38,035 ABC surgeries in 2019-20, and 47,028 birth control surgeries were performed in 2020-21. This number went up to 57,481 in 2021-22, followed by 47,892 surgeries in 2022-23 and 49,511 in 2023-24. However, between April and December 2024, only 28,308 surgeries have been conducted.

"We had to temporarily stop the ABC program for a few months due to complaints from animal activists regarding ABC centres. This interruption has led to fewer surgeries. However, this is expected to surge over the coming months as we have functional ABC centres in every zone. We have a new service provider in the Mahadevapura zone as well," said Kishore.

Hurdles to ABC program

In July last year, BBMP shut down the ABC program in RR Nagar, Yelahanka, and Mahadevpura Zones after suspending the contract of ASRA, an NGO running the program for BBMP. The step was taken after animal welfare activists registered complaints of a botched ABC surgery in the Yelahanka zone leading to the death of a street dog. However, an inquiry done by BBMP could not prove negligence.

Moreover, while BBMP had an ABC centre in the Mahadevapura zone, it was shut down in 2023. Since then, dogs from the Mahadevapura area have been sent to Yelahanka ABC Centre, leading to complaints regarding street dog issues from the area.

Capacity of at least 2 ABC centres in city, namely Mahadevapura & Bommanahalli, will be increased soon

'Kriya Yoga is key to inner peace in a fast-paced world'

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In a world where everything moves at lightning speed, finding moments of stillness has become increasingly difficult. However, Swami Ishwarananda, head of the Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS), believes that the ancient practice of Kriya Yoga is the perfect antidote to modern chaos.

He shared his journey to monkhood with Bangalore Mirror and explained why Kriya Yoga is the ideal meditation path for today's generation. Swami Ishwarananda, originally a doctor, credits Autobiography of a Yogi as the book that transformed his life. Translated into more than 50 languages, this book introduced him to the world of Indian saints and their extraordinary lives. "When I first read this book, the high-level English made it difficult to grasp at first, but it was my first introduction to stories of contemporary Indian saints," he recalled. Over the years, he explored the teachings of saints like Ramakrishna Paramahamsa and actively searched for a guru. Eventually, a friend introduced him to YSS, which he now leads in India.

Why Kriya Yoga?

He further emphasised that today's fast-paced world demands quick solutions, and Kriya Yoga provides just that, a deep and effective method for inner peace. Rooted in the teachings of Sri Sri Paramahansa Yogananda, Kriya Yoga is a form of Raja Yoga that helps quiet the body and mind, silencing distractions, emotions, and sensory overload.

"Kriya Yoga is no ordinary breathing exercise; it is the highest known technique of pranayama, enabling one to consciously control the life force (prana) within the body, ultimately leading to cosmic consciousness," he explained. Beyond religious and philosophical boundaries, it is a universal science that enhances overall well-being, bringing health, wisdom, creativity, prosperity, and, most importantly, a connection with one's inner divine self. "If you are truly thirsty for understanding life's mysteries, learn Kriya Yoga. These scientific spiritual teachings, passed down by enlightened sages, hold the answers you seek."

Meditation, he emphasised, is not just about sitting still; it is about experiencing true joy. "Love is an aspect of God. We often associate love with our family, pets, and close ones, but real love comes from within, from the divine presence inside us. Through meditation and Kriya Yoga, we can tap into this infinite reservoir of love and joy." The impact of Kriya Yoga extends beyond personal transformation; it holds the power to change the world. "By transforming individual lives, Kriya Yoga has the potential to reshape human civilisation itself," he stated. "It is the remedy for all troubles, pain, and suffering."

Best time to meditate

Swami Ishwarananda suggests that certain times of the day are particularly beneficial due to the Earth's magnetic field. These include early morning (5-6 am), midday (11-12 pm), evening (5-7 pm) and late night (10 pm-12 am). But for those unable to meditate during these windows, he reassures that consistency is more important than timing. "The best time is as soon as you wake up," he advised.

Notably, a public talk by YSS/SRF President Sri Sri Swami Chidananda Giri on Paramahansa Yogananda's teachings will take place on February 2, from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Royal Senate, Palace Grounds, Jayamahal.

High on pills: 7 arrested in illegal painkiller peddling

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Seven individuals, including a medical representative, were arrested by Tilak Park New Extension police in Tumakuru for illegally peddling Tydol tablets as substitute drugs to addicts in and around the town. Investigations have revealed that the tablets were being procured in large quantities from Bengaluru despite strict restrictions. Police are now working to trace the supply chain and determine how these banned drugs were smuggled into Tumukuru.

Police have seized 300 tablets, syringes, and mobile phones from the accused and are tracking others linked to the racket. Efforts are also underway to locate the main supplier, who remains absconding. "These tablets were sourced from Bengaluru, and those involved in selling them have also been arrested. Generally, these tablets were distributed through medical shops and distributors. We are working closely with the Drug Control Department, and a report has been sent to revoke the license of the medical store where the tablets were seized," said a police official.

The crackdown follows a year-long follow-up after police patrolling near college areas discovered used medical syringes, empty tablet strips, and cigarette filters. This raised suspicion, prompting the formation of a special team that analysed CCTV footage before identifying and arresting the accused.

Illegal sale & distribution network

The prime accused, identified as Bhanuprakash, a salesman at a medical store, and Raghavendra, a medical representative, were at the core of the operation. The duo saw a growing demand for Tydol tablets and began sourcing them illegally. They expanded their network by recruiting Abhishek, who managed clients using a new phone. Abhishek, in turn, involved his contacts, including Syed Lukhman, a cab driver; Syed Saif, a wall painter; Aftab, a fabricator; and Gururaj, a marketing executive, who then sold single tablets for Rs 100 to Rs 200 to college students and professionals.

Bengaluru-sourced Tydol tablets fuel drug racket in Tumakuru; pills were used as cheaper alternative to banned narcotics; main supplier absconding

Officials noted that Tydol tablets, in this case, were being melted, diluted, and injected by addicts. Students and private employees were among the primary users. The police suspect that this abuse has been ongoing for over a year, with several addicts relying on these tablets as a cheaper alternative to banned narcotics. Despite being a controlled substance, the tablets were being sold illegally without prescriptions at an inflated rate. The standard retail price was bypassed as peddlers charged Rs 800 per strip to desperate buyers.

Legitimate use of Tydol tablets

Tydol tablets are prescription drugs that should only be sold under a doctor's supervision.

The tablets are used for specific medical conditions, and their misuse poses serious health risks, including addiction, overdose, and severe side effects.

"Tydol tablets contain Tramadol, a prescription opioid painkiller used to treat moderate to severe pain. While they are medically prescribed for post-surgical pain and chronic conditions, their misuse can lead to serious health risks.

At high doses, Tramadol can cause drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, respiratory depression, and even seizures. Prolonged abuse can lead to addiction and withdrawal symptoms similar to other opioids," said a public health expert.

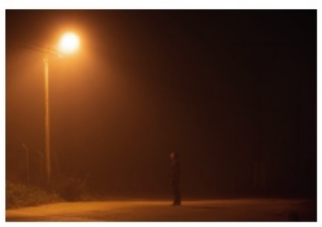
The police are continuing their efforts to dismantle the network and identify more individuals involved. Authorities have warned medical stores against selling prescription drugs without proper documentation and are planning stricter enforcement to prevent further misuse of such medications.

LPG refilling racket busted in Jayanagar

Authorities on Tuesday raided a shop engaged in unauthorised stocking and illegal refilling of LPG cylinders in Jayanagar 1st Block, Someswara Nagar. The raid uncovered a total of 80 LPG cylinders—both private and government-owned—along with three refilling rods and a weighing machine, collectively valued at Rs 4 lakh. One individual was arrested during the raid, while two others suspected to be involved in the illicit trade are currently absconding. A search operation is underway to apprehend them.

Authorities stated that the accused were conducting these operations without any safety precautions, endangering public life and property. The illegal operation involved transferring gas from large household cylinders to smaller ones for resale, posing a severe risk of fire and explosion. The seized items and the arrested suspect were handed over to Siddapura Police Station for further legal proceedings. The arrested accused was produced before the Court on Wednesday, where he was granted bail. **BMB**

Woman escapes sexual assault attempt



A young woman hailing from Manipur narrowly escaped a sexual assault attempt after two unidentified men attacked her near Kammanahalli on Monday. According to the police, the woman had booked an Uber cab around 2 am to pick up her friend from Whitefield. While waiting inside the cab near Kammanahalli, two unidentified men suddenly entered the vehicle. Startled, she immediately got out and tried to flee, but the assailants chased her down. One of them grabbed her by the neck and threw her to the ground, while the other tried to undress her, police said, quoting the victim's complaint. The woman screamed for help, which alerted nearby residents. The accused fled before the public could intervene. The Banaswadi police have registered a case and have begun analysing CCTV footage from the area to identify and track down the suspects.

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Weekend getaways fuel B'luru realty

Many Bengalureans are now looking beyond traditional real estate investments and turning towards farmlands, where they can cultivate, innovate, and manage their own agricultural ventures. This trend is driven by a desire for self-sustained living, weekend farming, and innovative agro-projects that combine business with personal satisfaction.

Buyers are seeking farm plots that allow them to cultivate organic fruits, vegetables, and medicinal plants while also experimenting with modern farming techniques. "I always wanted to grow my food, and investing in a farm has given me that opportunity. The best part is that I can manage it while living in the city. The rising interest in farming is also fuelled by advancements in agricultural technology which make small-scale farming efficient and profitable. With modern farming techniques, we don't need vast acres to make farming viable. A few acres with the right strategy can be highly productive," said Raghav Shetty, a techie.

Many buyers are also forming community-based farming projects where multiple families invest together, sharing responsibilities and reaping the benefits. With Bengaluru's fast-paced lifestyle, farm investments offer a retreat from urban stress while securing a long-term appreciating asset.

Investing in sandalwood farms

In addition to farmland, a new trend is emerging where investors are eyeing sandalwood farms that offer a luxurious and sustainable lifestyle. Unlike traditional farm plots, these sandalwood plantations come with premium amenities such as clubhouses, cottages, temples, swimming pools, playgrounds, meditation halls, and gyms, creating an all-inclusive gated community experience amidst nature.

"Sandalwood farming is particularly attractive due to its high market value and government support for cultivation. Sandalwood is an investment in an asset that appreciates over time. The integration of luxury amenities makes these farms more than just agricultural investments. They are marketed as weekend retreats or retirement destinations where buyers can unwind while their investment grows. I wanted a place where I could relax with my family while also having a long-term wealth-building opportunity. The idea of owning a sandalwood farm with a clubhouse and meditation hall was too good to pass up," said Rajesh Nair, an IT professional from Whitefield.

Meanwhile, developers are capitalising on this trend by offering managed farm plots where experts handle cultivation and maintenance. This approach makes it appealing to urban professionals who want to invest in agriculture without the day-to-day hassle of farm management. **–Prakash VL**

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STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

A STROLL WITH THE CATCH

A grey heron is proudly displaying its kill at Hoskote Lake in Bengaluru

The picture was clicked by reader **Dr SS Suresh**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Delayed flyover works at Katamnallur irks motorists

Slow progress of flyover construction at Katamnallur Gate worsens traffic in area, poses safety risks to all commuters

| Sridhar Vivan
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The ongoing flyover construction at Katamnallur Gate on the Old Madras Road is proceeding at a snail's pace, causing significant inconvenience to motorists. Service roads have been opened for traffic, but riddled with potholes, their poor condition has made smooth travel impossible. This has resulted in hours of traffic congestion, especially during peak hours.

Sources said that the construction of the flyover, aimed at easing traffic flow and reducing congestion near Katamnallur Gate, began two years ago under the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). However, the slow progress of the work has led to persistent traffic snarls along Old Madras Road. At peak times, it reportedly takes over an hour to cover a distance of just one kilometre near the construction site.

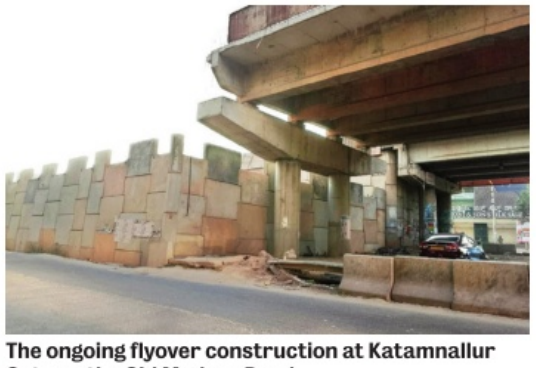
Safety concerns and mismanagement

"The lack of attention from NHAI officials and traffic police has worsened the problem. As work progresses in one direction, the service road towards Whitefield from Hoskote has been made one-way. Motorists are forced to take a two-kilometre detour or drive against the flow of traffic on the one-way road, creating additional bottlenecks and raising the risk of accidents," said Arun Kumar, a motorist.

Moreover, it is said that the issue is compounded by two-wheeler parking on service roads, further obstructing traffic flow. "Despite the critical nature of the project and the volume of vehicles impacted daily, there has been no visible urgency to address these issues. Motorists are urging the authorities to expedite the flyover construction and ensure smoother traffic management to alleviate the ongoing challenges," said S John, a college student.

Key travel link

The flyover project near Katamnallur Gate is crucial as the road serves as a key link between Bengaluru, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh. It also connects local areas such as Hoskote and Malur. Consequently, this route sees heavy vehicular movement, with thousands of vehicles using it daily. During the construction phase, only one direction of the flyover—towards Bengaluru from Hoskote—was operational. The construction on the Bengaluru-to-Hoskote and Kolar direction also began around two years ago but has made little headway.



The ongoing flyover construction at Katamnallur Gate on the Old Madras Road

DID YOU KNOW?

Leonhard Seppala and his sled dog team as pictured on October 12, 1928, in Alaska. In 1925, Seppala was part of the nearly 700-mile relay of mushers and dog teams to get diphtheria antitoxin to Nome, Alaska, during a deadly outbreak of the disease. Today, the most famous mushing event in the world is the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, which is not based on the serum run but on the Iditarod Trail, a supply route from Seward to Nome. This year's Iditarod starts March 1 — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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'This image is prototype of country's first sewer-cleaning robot'

| Factly.in

Claim: The photos show that the mechanised scavenging is from China.

Fact: The mechanised scavenging photo is actually from India, not China. It depicts the Bandicoot robot, developed in Kerala, which is used for cleaning sewage systems and has been successfully deployed in cities like Thiruvananthapuram and Mysuru. The other photo shows a person who was cleaning a sewer line in July 2018 in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Hence, the claim is misleading.

A social media post features two images: one showing manual scavenging and the other showing mechanised scavenging. The post claims that the photo of the mechanised one is from China, portraying it as more advanced than India, while the manual scavenging image is from India, highlighting that such work is often carried out by Dalits. Let's investigate the truth behind these photos.

To uncover the truth, we conducted a reverse image search and found the viral image in a video report published by Deutsche Welle (DW) on April 8, 2022. According to the report, the machine shown is cleaning a sewer pipe in Mysuru and it is a prototype of India's first sewer-cleaning robot, named 'Bandicoot' after the Indian rat species. The machine was developed by a tech company in Kerala to tackle the issue of manual scavenging, as highlighted in the report. Further research led us to a Hindi video report by DW News, published on April 19, 2022, where the same image appeared at the 0:39-second mark. The report mentioned that the robotic machine shown in the image was cleaning a closed sewage pipe in Mysore, Karnataka.

Further research led us to several reports about the Bandicoot machine. According to these reports, it is the world's first sewer-cleaning robot, developed by a team of nine engineers from Kerala. Launched in February 2018 after a successful trial in Thiruvananthapuram, the robot successfully unclogged five manholes filled with plastic, filth, medical waste, and sediments. Since then, the Kerala Water Authority has been using the Bandicoot robot in Thiruvananthapuram. Additionally, a Deccan Herald report on January 30, 2021, stated that Mysuru became the first city in Karnataka to use the Bandicoot robot for cleaning underground drainage systems. Details about this robot can be seen on the official website of the company that developed this robot. Reverse image search of the manual scavenging photo in the claim led to several sources identifying the man in the photo as Joney, who was cleaning a sewer line in July 2018 in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, India.

The image is credited to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in India and is frequently used in reports highlighting the challenges and hardships faced by manual scavengers.

In India, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment issued a notification on enforcing the prohibition of manual scavenging under the Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013) effective from December 6, 2013. The act states that no person or agency can engage in or employ any individual for manual scavenging, with penalties including imprisonment for up to two years, and a fine of up to Rs. one Lakh, or both. However, despite this law, reports indicate that manual scavenging still exists in India today, with many claiming that a significant portion of it is carried out by Dalits. However, the photo showing Mechanised scavenging is also from India deployed in a few places.

To sum up, this photo of Mechanised scavenging equipment is from India, not China. The story was originally published by Factly.in (https://factly.in/this-photo-of-mechanised-scavenging-equipment-is-from-india-not-china/) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

Uttarahalli Main Road offers ideal blend of urban and serene living

Uttarahalli Main Road, a key arterial road connecting Bengaluru's core areas to Kengeri, is fast emerging as a sought-after residential location. With its well-developed infrastructure, multiple housing options, and connectivity advantages, the stretch is attracting homebuyers looking for a perfect balance of convenience and quality of life.

Strategic location

Uttarahalli Main Road offers seamless connectivity to key localities such as Banashankari, Padmanabhanagar, Kumaraswamy Layout, and Kengeri. Its proximity to NICE Road and Outer Ring Road ensures easy access to Electronic City, Mysuru Road, and other employment hubs. This has significantly boosted the demand for real estate in the area, with many homebuyers preferring the locality for its strategic location. "The best part about Uttarahalli Main Road is the connectivity. I work in Electronic City, and thanks to the well-developed road network, my daily commute is hassle-free," said Ramesh Prasad, a recent homebuyer in the locality.

Growing residential projects

The area offers a mix of apartments, independent houses, and gated communities, catering to different budgets. Reputed builders have launched projects featuring modern amenities such as landscaped gardens, clubhouses, swimming pools, and security systems, attracting both first-time buyers and investors. "The locality has a good mix of affordable and premium housing options. There are upcoming high-rise apartments and villa projects, which means there is something for everyone. Additionally, the presence of well-established educational institutions, hospitals, shopping complexes, and recreational spots makes Uttarahalli an ideal place for families. Prominent schools are easily accessible. Healthcare facilities ensure residents have access to quality medical care. Despite urban development, Uttarahalli retains its green charm with several parks and open spaces. The area's peaceful surroundings, coupled with well-planned civic amenities, have made it a preferred choice for homebuyers looking for a balance between city life and serenity," said Navya Gowda, a buyer.

The area offers apartments and houses for various budgets

"The locality is quiet and away from the hustle and bustle of the city. We were looking for a home where we could have a peaceful environment yet stay connected to the city, and Uttarahalli ticked all the boxes. Real estate prices in Uttarahalli have been witnessing steady appreciation due to its rising demand and ongoing infrastructure projects. Experts predict that the area's property values will continue to significantly grow, making it a promising investment opportunity. With its excellent connectivity, strong infrastructure, and growing residential projects, Uttarahalli Main Road is increasingly becoming the preferred choice for homebuyers looking for a well-connected, comfortable and peaceful living experience," added Nandeesh Kumar, a realtor.

-Prakash VL

Infrastructure drives boom

India's economic performance has been strong despite global headwinds. Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO, India, Southeast Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE said, "The Economic Survey 2024-25 highlights a strong trajectory for the real estate sector, driven by a 38.8% increase in government capital expenditure on infrastructure, signalling continued focus on development. The construction sector's robust growth—15% above pre-pandemic trends—reflects a thriving market, supported by rising housing demand and infrastructure progress. Public-private partnerships and initiatives like the National Infrastructure and Monetisation Pipelines create a fertile ground for collaboration, enhancing long-term investment potential in real estate. This combination of government commitment, regulatory ease, and market momentum presents an exciting opportunity for developers and investors to capitalise on emerging opportunities in infrastructure."

Real estate sector pins hopes on union budget 2025-26

As the Union Budget 2025-26 approaches, set to be announced in February, the real estate sector is looking to the Modi 3.0 government for initiatives to revive consumption and spur growth amid a decline in real estate activity in the second half of 2024. Anuj Puri, Chairman of Anarock Group, noted that while tax relief and incentives are perennial demands, the government is expected to prioritise infrastructure development. "Infrastructure is a critical driver for long-term growth in real estate, even though it may not provide immediate relief to end-users," he said.

Puri stressed that the upcoming Budget would likely focus on economic stability and growth, particularly in light of subdued Gross Domestic Product (GDP) performance in recent quarters. "Stimulus measures for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), job creation, and skilling initiatives will further propel economic activity, benefiting the broader real estate market," he added.

Affordable housing revival: Critical need

One of the sector's key expectations is the revival of affordable housing. This segment, which once accounted for a significant share of housing sales and supply, has seen a sharp decline post-pandemic. Anarock data reveals that affordable housing's sales share fell to 18% in 2024 from over 38% in 2019, while its share in total supply dropped to 16% from nearly 40% in the same period.

"This decline underscores the urgent need for targeted interventions," said Puri.

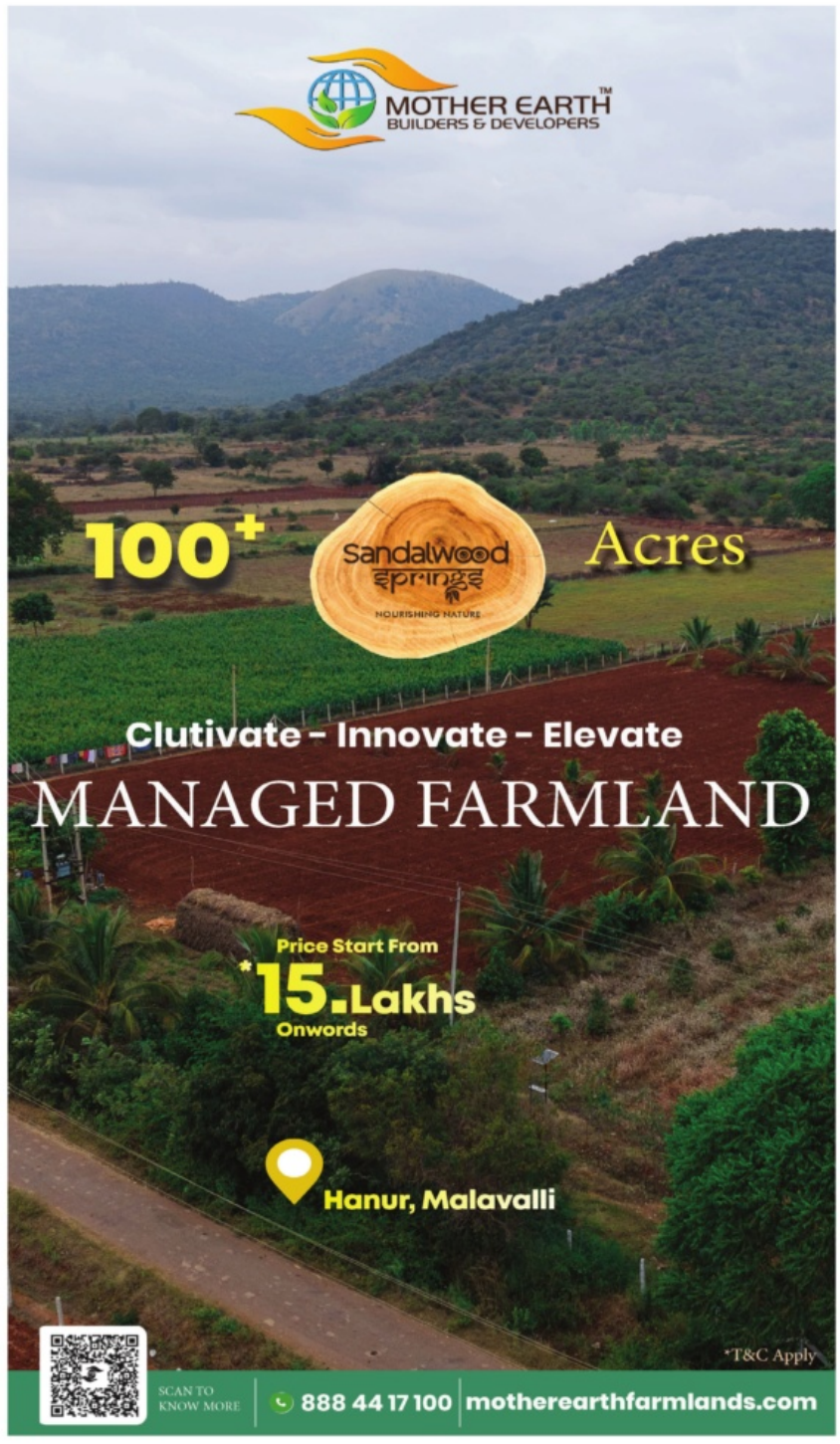
"Affordable housing has been neglected in the last two years, and it's time to focus on measures that can boost both supply and demand."

Restoring 100% tax holiday for developers

"The tax holiday under Section 80-IBA was a game-changer for affordable housing projects. Its reinstatement could significantly boost developer participation," he said by calling for an upward revision of the price cap for affordable housing, which currently stands at Rs 45 lakh. "In high-cost cities like Mumbai, this cap should be raised to at least Rs 85 lakh and Rs 60-65 lakh in other metro cities to align with market realities," he suggested.

CY 2024 trends and road ahead

The real estate sector faced headwinds in 2024 due to elections, with housing sales across the top seven cities declining by 4% to 4.46 lakh units and new launches dropping by 7% to 4.13 lakh units, according to Anarock research. However, Puri expressed optimism for 2025. "With the right incentives, 2025 could mark a revival, enabling the residential segment to reclaim its 2023 highs in sales," he stated.



Vengaiah Lake's future: Will rejuvenation hold up?

Concerns have arisen over quality of stone pitching at Vengaiah Lake, with activists warning it could collapse without proper toe wall; but BBMP assures use of eco-friendly dry rock toe for stability

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Vengaiah Lake at KR Puram in East Bengaluru is being rejuvenated at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department has taken up the rejuvenation of the lake that spread across 59 acres as against its original size of 65 acres. The residents of KR Puram, TC Palya and surrounding areas consider the rejuvenation of the lake as a much-needed relief. The rejuvenation of the lake began in March 2024 and it is expected to be completed by the onset of monsoon this year.

Now, the lake is in the news for all the wrong reasons. Some lake activists and residents have expressed concern over the alleged poor quality of stone pitching without having a toe wall. They are apprehensive about the durability of stone pitching without having a toe wall.

A toe wall is a low retaining wall of a lakebund constructed to prevent soil erosion and slope (stone pitching) failure. "I have already informed the BBMP Lakes Department about the poor quality of stone pitching at Vengaiah Lake. I have also spoken with the workers engaged in stone pitching at the lake. They told me that they were following what their contractor told them to do. I hope the BBMP Lake Department engineer will take measures to ensure quality in stone pitching," said Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist.

File photo of Vengaiah Lake; below: Patchy pitching work at the lake

Nagesh Aras, an environmentalist, said the stone pitching is too steep. "The stone-pitching is not extended to the very bottom of the lake, not supported with a toe structure or a retaining wall. It is only a matter of time before the soil below the stone gets eroded. When that happens, all the stones will collapse. If there is traffic passing on top (especially heavy vehicles), it poses a danger to the vehicles also," said Nagesh Aras.

> **"The stone-pitching is not extended to the very bottom of the lake, not supported with a toe structure or retaining wall**
> – Nagesh A, environmentalist

However, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) Nithya said that measures were taken to ensure quality in stone pitching at Vengaiah Lake. "The dry rock toe is being provided along the bund at Vengaiah Lake. The dry rock toe is a more economical, eco-friendly structure used for revetment foundation against slope protection for embankment. It is free from cement with almost the same strength to resist the sliding of revetment stone. It is cost-effective when compared to SSM or RCC toe wall. The cost for the wall construction in Vengaiah Lake will be up to Rs 60 lakh whereas the rock toe costs only Rs 6 lakh," said BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes).

Trash piles up in Domlur as power failure, staff crunch hits station

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Residents of Domlur are grappling with severe waste collection issues due to the inefficient functioning of the recently established transfer station in Domlur ward. According to the residents, the facility, which replaced the earlier compactors with large containers to handle wet waste more efficiently, has been facing frequent power failures and poor maintenance, leading to garbage accumulation in households and on the streets.

According to residents, the transfer station, introduced three years ago, was meant to improve waste management by accommodating more wet waste. However, due to a lack of manpower and operational challenges, door-to-door waste collection has been severely affected. The situation has worsened in the past two weeks, with multiple complaints from residents about uncollected garbage piling up in their homes, attracting flies and mosquitoes.

"Every second day, there is a problem with garbage collection. The workers are either unavailable, or there are issues with transferring waste to the containers. As a result, previous days' wet waste remains uncollected, causing delays in collection for the next day. Now, residents, in frustration, are dumping waste on the roads, adding to the problem," said Shiv Kumar, Secretary of Domlur Layout Resident Welfare Association.

The transfer station relies on auto-tippers to collect wet waste from households before transferring it into large containers. While the transition from compactors to containers was expected to increase efficiency, the frequent breakdowns and manpower shortages have only aggravated the crisis. Residents have repeatedly raised the issue in ward committee meetings, urging authorities to take immediate action.

"We have been voicing our concerns for a long time and even brought it up during ward committee meetings but no concrete action has been taken. The authorities must ensure proper maintenance of the transfer station and deploy adequate manpower to handle waste collection smoothly," added Shiv Kumar.

"The ongoing waste collection delays have not only created sanitation issues but have also led to health concerns, with mosquitoes and flies breeding in the accumulated garbage. We need urgent intervention from the BBMP) to resolve the crisis," said another resident of the area.

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Transformer replaced

Hennur

After a report in the column highlighted a transformer obstructing pedestrian movement in Hennur, BESCOM promptly replaced it.

Road woes

Brunton Road

Brunton Road Cross residents raise concerns over its deteriorating condition, citing an urgent need for repairs.

Illegal hoardings

Vittal Mallya Road

Despite the banner ban, hoardings continue to line Vittal Mallya Road, prompting calls for action against violations.

K'taka's progressive policies fuel IT, MSME sector growth

State's deregulation and relaxed work rules are boosting development across service industries; city's infrastructure and urbanisation drive industrial expansion

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Bengaluru in general and Karnataka in particular has taken a progressive step in boosting women's participation in the workforce by relaxing restrictions on night shifts for employees in the Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) sector. The Economic Survey for the financial year 2024-25 presented by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that the shift is not just about labour market flexibility but is a strategic move to enhance gender inclusivity in one of the state's strongest economic sectors. Experts said that by instituting conditional exemptions, Karnataka ensures a balance between workplace safety and employment opportunities, further reinforcing its status as a leading IT hub in India.

Experts say Karnataka balances safety and job

Deregulation as key driver for MSME growth

The survey pointed to the crucial role of deregulation in fostering the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). Unlike large enterprises that possess the managerial and financial bandwidth to navigate compliance challenges, MSMEs often struggle with regulatory burdens. "Karnataka has actively pursued policy measures to ease compliance through digitisation, process simplifications, and stakeholder engagement. These efforts aim to reduce the cost of doing business and create a more dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Karnataka's approach aligns with national trends where states have increasingly focused on deregulation to promote industrial expansion. By learning from best practices both within India and globally, Karnataka can further streamline its regulatory framework to attract greater investments in its MSME sector," the report stated.

Service sector dominant contributor

The report stated that Karnataka remains a powerhouse in India's service sector, contributing significantly to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA). In FY23, along with Maharashtra, Karnataka accounted for more than a quarter of the total service sector GSVA across Indian states. This underscores the state's role as a critical driver of the country's knowledge economy. "Notably, financial services, real estate, and professional services are highly concentrated in Karnataka, alongside Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat. Bengaluru, as the state's economic nucleus, serves as a major hub for IT and fintech services, driving significant demand for commercial and residential spaces. The city's rapid urbanisation and robust infrastructure further cement its leadership in these high-growth industries," the report stated.

Symbiotic growth model

The report stated Karnataka's economic structure is characterised by a strong interplay between its industrial and service sectors. The state's high concentration of IT, technology-driven manufacturing, and fintech enterprises contributes to a self-sustaining growth model where industrial expansion fuels service sector demand and vice versa. Bengaluru, in particular, has emerged as a global technology hub, attracting multinational corporations, startups, and a highly skilled workforce.

> **"Bengaluru, as state's economic nucleus, serves as major hub for IT and fintech services, driving significant demand for commercial and residential spaces**
>
> –Report

Benchmarking Karnataka against other leading states

The report stated that among Indian states, Karnataka, Telangana, and Kerala have emerged as leaders in service-driven economies. While these states boast high per capita GSVA in services, their industrial GSVA per capita remains around the national average. This highlights the growing dependence of urbanised economies on knowledge-based industries rather than traditional manufacturing.

State's first bird survey

For the first time in the state, the Forest Department has decided to conduct a bird survey to identify the diversity of bird species in forest areas. The survey is scheduled to take place on February 1 and 2 at the Male Mahadeshwara Betta Wildlife Sanctuary. While tiger and elephant counts are regularly conducted in Karnataka's forest regions, this is the first time a focused bird survey is being undertaken. The Male Mahadeshwara Betta Wildlife Sanctuary, located near the Tamil Nadu border, spans a forest area of 906 sq km.

50 teams for survey

Sources said that volunteers, wildlife enthusiasts, and members of the public have already registered to participate in this survey. A total of 50 teams, each comprising 5-6 members—including volunteers and forest department officials—will conduct the survey. These teams will record bird sightings during early morning hours (3–4 am) and in the evening.

Survey methodology

The bird survey will follow methods similar to tiger and elephant censuses. Each team will be assigned a designated area to document the species of birds observed, along with their behaviours such as flying or perching. Photographs will also be taken and recorded using forms provided by the Forest Department.

Safety measures

An official said, "Given the sanctuary's diverse wildlife, including over 300 elephants, 20 tigers, leopards, the department will equip teams with safety gear to ensure their protection. This survey helps in understanding the importance of bird diversity."

Strict rules for SSLC exams

To maintain the integrity of the SSLC examination, the use, sale, and purchase of micro books and photocopied study materials have been banned across all schools in Kalaburagi Division. Authorities have observed that students rely on these unauthorised materials, which compromises the quality of education and promotes unfair practices. Any violation of this order will result in strict action against school principals and teachers.

According to an official order issued recently, "To prevent malpractices during the SSLC exams, the education department has implemented stringent measures, including legal action against offenders. Instances such as leaking question papers, distributing unauthorised materials, and attempting to cheat will invite severe penalties. Under the Karnataka Education (Amendment) Act, 2017 (Karnataka Act No 18 of 2017), individuals found guilty of exam fraud—such as circulating leaked question papers on social media, impersonation, or distributing cheat sheets—will face 3 to 5 years of imprisonment and a fine of up to 5 lakh."

Government and private school staff involved in such activities will be subjected to departmental inquiries and dismissal from service, as per government orders. **–Sridhar Vivan**

IRCTC acts on passenger's phone hacking complaint

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is investigating allegations that one of its outsourced employees colluded with fraudsters to hack a railway passenger's mobile phone and withdraw money from his bank account.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled 'Man has tricky ticket booking experience' on January 28, narrating how Mohan Krishnan Nair, a resident of Bengaluru, had to undergo distress when he discovered that his mobile phone had been hacked by a fraudster with the help of an outsourced employee working at IRCTC. Nair told BM that he has been a regular user of the IRCTC portal and mobile app. He mentioned that he books all his tickets monthly through the app, and his last booking on the website was on January 12, 2025.

IRCTC probes employee's role in hacking

BM reported on Jan 28 about Mohan Krishna N, whose phone was hacked with IRCTC employee's help

Meanwhile, G Srinivasulu Reddy, an Executive/IT, IRCTC, sent an email on January 28 to Mohan Krishnan Nair, referring to the news article published in Bangalore Mirror.

"We deeply regret the inconvenience caused to you. It is informed that IRCTC has taken the issue very seriously. As a part of the investigation, it is requested to share the mobile number from which you have received a call and also a screenshot of the Whatsapp message received from the caller. Thanks & Regards," the e-mail sent by G Srinivasulu Reddy read.

On January 30, Mohan Krishnan Nair received another e-mail from G Srinivasulu Reddy. "Dear Sir, you are once again requested to share the details of the caller as sought vide trailing mail. Thanks & Regards," the email read.

Mohan Krishnan Nair responded to the email sent by Srinivasulu Reddy on January 30, detailing how he received a call on January 24. "Dear Mr Srinivasulu Reddy, thanks for your email. On 24 January at 11:46 am, I received a call from someone claiming to be from the IRCTC helpline team. He knew I had complained to IRCTC regarding a mobile app and website 'User ID disabled' issue. He asked me to open a mobile IRCTC app, go to the option 'Help & Support', open 'equery.irctc' and then fill up the details. After a while my above complaint got resolved and I was able to log in. I also got a confirmation SMS from equery.irctc. He then sent me a WhatsApp form, which he claimed was a feedback form, from a different number I suspect belongs to the cyber hacker. How did the previous number resolve my login issue?" an email from Mohan Krishnan Nair read.

More than 1 fire on an average daily last year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and resulting in significant financial losses, with several bikes reduced to ashes. Initial reports indicate a possible short circuit as the trigger.

The second fire broke out around on Tuesday at 1.30 pm in a godown near Bohmanhalli. Officials reported seeing sparks from a switchboard due to short circuit, before the flames spread rapidly, damaging property worth Rs 10 lakh. The godown contained furniture made out of coconut fibre, which were all gutted.

Why this fire surge?

Officials point to multiple factors behind the city's short-circuit fires such as aging electrical infrastructure. Many buildings, especially older apartments and commercial establishments, still rely on outdated wiring systems that struggle to handle modern electrical loads.

Other than this, unauthorised electrical modifications, Illegal connections, unapproved electrical work, and improper installation of high-powered appliances are adding to the risk. Overloaded power grids due to the increasing demand for electricity is pushing local transformers and substations to their limits, leading to frequent fluctuations that spark fire.

Most residential societies and commercial complexes fail to conduct routine electrical audits, leaving hazardous faults undetected until disaster strikes. Apart from these, lizards or rats can also chew on the wires causing the short circuit. Lastly they said, poor maintenance such as wrapping wires with insulating tape or ignoring sparks caused by high voltage, can lead to catastrophic fires.

Authorities sound the alarm

The Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department has urged citizens to take preventive measures. "We receive multiple calls daily, and short-circuit fires are among the leading causes. Major incidents happen rarely; there might be 1 or 2 but most of the cases are minor," said a fire official. "Regular electrical audits, use of ISI-marked equipment, and ensuring proper earthing and good quality wires can prevent many of these incidents."

BESCOM has also stepped in, instructing apartment associations and commercial complexes to ensure fire safety norms are followed. BESCOM (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company) officials highlighted the responsibility of building owners in maintaining electrical safety. A BESCOM spokesperson stated, "Once a power connection is provided, it becomes the building owner's duty to maintain transformers and electrical systems. Annual inspections are mandatory, and failure to comply can result in penalties."

> **"Regular electrical audits, use of ISI-marked equipment, and ensuring proper earthing and good quality wires can prevent many of these incidents** — Fire official

With Bengaluru's rapid urbanisation, fire safety must become a priority. While authorities work on solutions, citizens too must play their part in ensuring safe electrical practices.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, P V V L S MURTI (As per PAN Card and Driving License) also known as VENKAT V LAKSHMI SURYANARAYANA MURTI PILAKA(As per Passport) also known as PILAKA VENKAT VARDHAN LAKSHMI SURYANARAYANA MURTI (As per AADHAR) S/o. Mr. P S N Murti, aged 34years born on 18-DEC-1990 residing at H No 5&6, 4th Main, Nataraja Layout, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my name to VENVLS PILAKA for all future purposes (Reason - Long Name) vide affidavit bearing Certificate No - IN-KA33142583064789X and Unique Doc.Ref # - SUBIN-KAKACRSFL080076525789 3487X dated 25 Jan 2025 sworn before notary L PUTTARAJU, Bengaluru Reg. No. LAW-LCL/274/2020.

I SURYA STEPHEN S S/o.STEPHEN ALEXANDER R/at No.6, 7th Cross, Prakruthi Layout, Agara Main Road, Babusapalya, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043 name of my father & my mother wrongly mentioned as STEPHEN ALEXANDER A & KAVITHA S respectively in my marksheet, the actual and correct name of my father & my mother is STEPHEN ALEXANDER & KAVITHA vide affidavit dtd:30/01/2025 sworn before notary Y R Chandrasekar, Blr.

I, Lasya Manjunath D/o, N S Manjunath R/o # 1154, Beladingalu, 35th Main Road, Poornapragna Nagar, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura Bengaluru 560061 have changed my name to Lasya for all purposes.

I TAJ MOHAMMED S/o S A Rasheed R/o 614 4th D Cross M M Layout Kavalbairasandra RT Nagar Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Taj Mohammed S R

I Priya A S w/o A Satya Narayana , Residing at 43, 5th Cross,Milk Colony, Malleshwaram west 560055, my husband name mentioned in wrongly as Sathyanarayana A in Previous Passpost but Correct Name is A Satyanarayana and I confirming that same for my further documents vide affidavit dated 20.1.2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary K C Shashikala, Bangalore

I Kemparaju Sulikere Basavaraju Residing at No.80, Sulikere, Near Post Office, Kengeri, Bangalore-560060 have changed my name to Kemparaju Sulikere Basavaiah vide affidavit dated 29-01-2025 sworn before Advocate & Notary K.C.Shashikala, Bengaluru.

I, MAINUDDIN MUDDEBIHAL, Indian national, M 6259171, hereby announce that I have changed my minor son's name from AHMED (Given Name) and (surname) Indian national holder of passport No: T 9506600 issued from Riyadh on 08/03/2021 , to AHMED (Given Name) and MUDDEBIHAL (Surname) For all future purposes.

I, Bhuttar Anuradha W/o Vijayaragahavan Raghavan R/o #5073 Tower-5 Prestige primpose Hills Banshankri 6th Stage Bangalore-560109 have changed my name to Anuradha Vijayaraghavan.

I Priti Constancio Vales R/O Flat F1, Raiyaan Manor Apartment, 35 JCO Colony, 1st Cross Vivekananda Nagar, Bangalore-560033 have Changed my name to Priti Vales

I, Anusha Kathoju R/a A-3, Nobel House, Basava Nagar, Marathalli Post, Bengaluru-560037. Have Changed To ANUSHA YANNAM. Afft Dt: 30.01.2025. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraju. E.

I Divya Sreenivasa Gowda W/O, Prakash Nanjunda R/o No 13/1 3rd Main Road Near Sjes College Rifco Shanthinikethan Layout Medahalli Bengalore -560049 have changed my name to Divya Sreenivasa Gowda Prakash.

I, MAINUDDIN MUDDEBIHAL, Indian national, M 6259171, hereby announce that I have changed my minor daughter's name from KHADIJA (Given Name) and (surname) Indian national holder of passport No: Y 6126061 issued from Riyadh on 01/07/2023 , to KHADIJA (Given Name) and MUDDEBIHAL (Surname) For all future purposes.

I, Syed Zabiur Rahman Sathyamangalam Athavur Rahman S/O, Athavur Rahman R/o G-4, Srivari Ashraya Apts, 1st Main, 2nd Block, Btm 4th Stage, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Syed Zabiur Rahman for all purposes

CHANGE OF SURNAME : I, JC-819948N Sub(Ck/SD) Satheesh Kumar PK resident of Balussery, Thuruthiyad, Quilandy, Kozhikode, Kerala declare that my father's and mother's name entered in my service records wrongly as Madhavan Nair K and Santha instead of Madhavan Nair P K and Santha P K as per their Aadhar card.

I GIRIJA MULLUR R/O # FLAT NO 102 BALAJI HILL VIE APT ITTAMADU MAIN ROAD BSK 3RD STAGE BANGALORE-560085 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GIRIJA ASHOK MULLUR

I, MAINUDDIN MUDDEBIHAL, Indian national, M 6259171, hereby announce that I have changed my minor son's name from MOHAMMED (Given Name) and (surname) Indian national holder of passport No: T 9506705 issued from Riyadh on 08/03/2021 , to MOHAMMED (Given Name) and MUDDEBIHAL (Surname) For all future purposes.

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Mar: 13, 18, 25, 29 Apr: 6, 11, 18, 23, 30, May: 6, 12, 18
KASHI AYODHYA GAYA/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
Mar: 1, 2*, 10, 15, 20, 20* 30* Apr: 1, 6*, 10, 13*, 20*, 22, 27*
KASHI AYODHYA/BADRI KEDAR* 14*/21 DAYS
April: 22, 29* May: 3, 9, 10*, 15, 16*, 21, 22*, 28*
MUSSOORIE NAINITAL CORBETT 14 DAYS: Mar: 3, 17 Apr: 7, 14
GUJARAT/RAJASTHAN* 12/25/16* Feb: 14, 28 Mar: 5, 10, 14*

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HEALTH TIP: Gestational diabetes typically develops in the second or third trimester and is often asymptomatic

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No 'surge' in fertility before menopause

But surprise pregnancies can happen, even after 45

Every now and then we see media reports about celebrities in their mid 40s having surprise pregnancies. Or you might hear stories like these from friends or relatives, or see them on TV.

Menopause signals the end of a woman's reproductive years and happens naturally between age 45 and 55 (the average is 51). After 12 months with no periods, a woman is considered postmenopausal.

While the chance of pregnancy is very low in the years leading up to menopause – the so called menopausal transition or perimenopause – the chance is not zero.

So, what do we know about the chance of conceiving naturally after age 45? And what are the risks?

Is there a spike in fertility before menopause?

The hormonal changes that accompany perimenopause cause changes to the menstrual cycle pattern, and some have suggested there can be a "surge" in fertility at perimenopause. But there's no evidence this exists.

In the years leading up to menopause, a woman's periods often become irregular, and she might have some of the common symptoms of menopause such as hot flushes and night sweats.

This might lead women to think they have hit menopause and can't get pregnant anymore. But while pregnancy in a woman in her mid 40s is significantly less likely compared to a woman in her 20s or 30s, it's still possible.

The stats for natural pregnancies after age 45

Although women in their mid- to late 40s sometimes have "miracle babies", the chance of pregnancy is minimal in the five to ten years leading up to menopause. The monthly chance of pregnancy in a woman aged 30 is about 20%. By age 40 it's less than 5% and by age 45 the chance is negligible.

We don't know exactly how many women become pregnant in their mid to late 40s, as many pregnancies at this age miscarry. The risk of miscarriage increases from 10% in women in their 20s to more than 50% in women aged 45 years or older. Also, for personal or medical reasons some pregnancies are terminated.

According to a review of demographic data on age when women had their final birth across several countries, the median age was 38.6 years. But the range of ages reported for last birth in the reviewed studies showed a small proportion of women give birth after age 45.

Having had many children before seems to increase the odds of giving birth after age 45. A study of 209 women in Israel who had conceived spontaneously and given birth after age 45 found 81% had already had six or more deliveries and almost half had had 11 or more previous deliveries.

There's no reliable data on how common births after age 45 are in Australia. The most recent report on births in Australia show that about 5% of babies are born to women aged 40 years or older.

However, most of those were likely born to women aged between 40 and 45. Also, the data includes women who conceive with assisted reproductive technologies, including with the use of donor eggs. For women in their 40s, using eggs donated by a younger woman significantly increases their chance of having a baby with IVF.

What to be aware of if you experience a late unexpected pregnancy

A surprise pregnancy late in life often comes as a shock and deciding what to do can be difficult.

Depending on their personal circumstances, some women decide to terminate the pregnancy. Contrary to the stereotype that abortions are most common among very young women, women aged 40–44 are more likely to have an abortion than women aged 15–19.

This may in part be explained by the fact older women are up to ten times more likely to have a fetus with chromosomal abnormalities.

There are some extra risks involved in pregnancy when the mother is older. More than half of pregnancies in women aged 45 and older end in miscarriage and some are terminated if prenatal testing shows the fetus has the wrong number of chromosomes.

This is because at that age, most eggs have chromosomal abnormalities. For example, the risk of having a pregnancy affected by Down syndrome is one in 86 at age 40 compared to one in 1,250 at age 20.

Apart from the increased risk of chromosomal abnormalities, advanced maternal age also increases the risk of stillbirth, fetal growth restriction (when the unborn baby doesn't grow properly), preterm birth, pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes and caesarean section.

However, it's important to remember that since the overall risk of all these things is small, even with an increase, the risk is still small and most babies born to older mothers are born healthy.

Multiple births are also more common in older women than in younger women. This is because older women are more likely to release more than one egg if and when they ovulate.

A study of all births in England and Wales found women aged 45 and over were the most likely to have a multiple birth.

The risks of babies being born prematurely and having health complications are higher in twin than singleton pregnancies, and the risks are highest in women of advanced maternal age.

What if you want to become pregnant in your 40s?

If you're keen to avoid pregnancy during perimenopause, it's recommended you use contraception. But if you want to get pregnant in your 40s, there are some things you can do to boost your chance of conceiving and having a healthy baby.

These include preparing for pregnancy by seeing a GP for a preconception health check, taking folic acid and iodine supplements, not smoking, limiting alcohol consumption, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly and having a nutritious diet. If you get good news, talking to a doctor about what to expect and how to best manage a pregnancy in your 40s can help you be prepared and will allow you to get personalised advice based on your health and circumstances.

(By Karin Hammarberg, Monash University, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

5 good fats

Coconut oil
Coconut oil is a medium-chain triglyceride that metabolises differently from long-chain fats. It is directly absorbed into the bloodstream and provides quick energy. It helps boost your metabolism and, thus, aids in your weight-loss journey.

Ghee
This clarified butter is another worthy source of MCTs. It includes butyrate – a short-chain fatty acid that supports growth in beneficial gut bacteria. The gut and weight loss are related – the gut helps to process food's digestion and assimilation. Ghee is also a powerhouse of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K, all important for overall health.

Avocados
Avocados are packed with monounsaturated fats, which prevent belly fat, hence helping the heart. Additionally, their high fibre content eases stool passage and keeps one full for long periods. You can include avocados in your diet by adding them to salads, enjoying them on toast, or blended in a smoothie. They are creamy in consistency and not overwhelming in flavour, so they do well with many different types of foods.

Nuts And Seeds
Nuts and seeds are full of good fats, proteins and fibre – all so valuable in any weight-loss diet. Two particularly nutritious nuts are almonds and walnuts. Rich in omega-3, these help the body reduce inflammation and support one on a weight-loss journey.

Olive Oil
Olive oil, particularly extra virgin olive oil, is a healthy fat for the body, and it can aid in losing weight. It is a powerhouse of monounsaturated fats and antioxidants, which, combined, are anti-inflammatory and good for overall health. It also boosts the flavour of food, so a healthy meal need not be boring.

—Dr Rohini Patel for Femina

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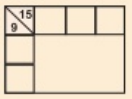
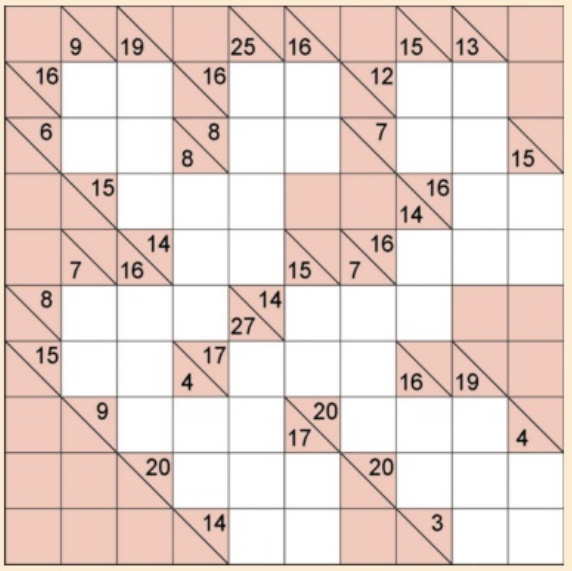
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

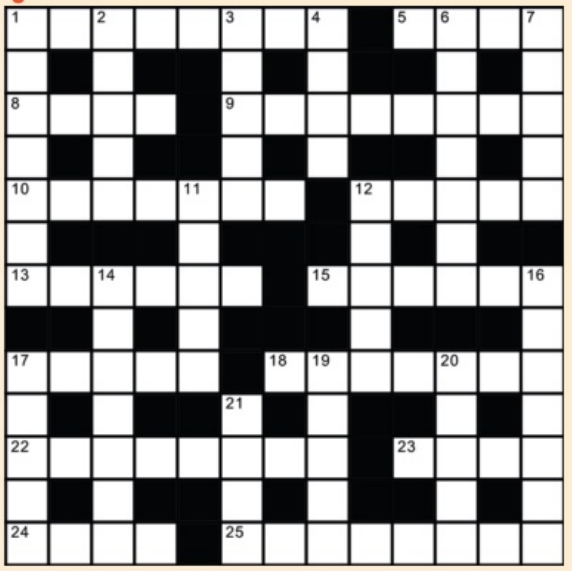


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Adjusting to suit a new use (8)
5 Eight as a prefix (4)
8 Catalogue or register (4)
9 In an emergency or if necessary? (2,1,5)
10 Some Arabs (7)
12 Implore (5)
13 Nauseate (6)
15 C\o. in the address line ? (4,2)
17 Combine or fuse into one (5)
18 Celebrated–"So tired" anagram ? (7)
22 Self-government (8)
23 Eve's boy (4)
24 Small hotels (4)
25 Trespasser (8)

DOWN

1 Very much agape with amazement (3,4)
2 North eastern state of India (5)
3 A man from Teheran? (5)
4 Aim or end (4)
6 Meet formally (7)
7 Felt sore (5)
11 Destitute (5)
12 Madrid's famous art gallery (5)
14 Former US President Bill ____ (7)
16 Violinist (7)
17 Festival that marks the beginning of the Kannada new year (5)
19 Assignation (5)
20 __ ___ shape : in poor condition? (2,3)
21 Mathematical sets (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS P

YHMS GZKGPZ WZBGJBZ XZHPNO, CIN EZX DMKX OKX NK VJRZ JN HXHS.

Linemaro

I am not trying to impress you, but I am Batman

Mindchow

The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting

Joke of the day

I am an obese man identifying as a skinny man. I am trans fat

Loop

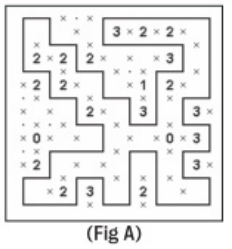
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

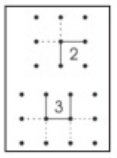
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

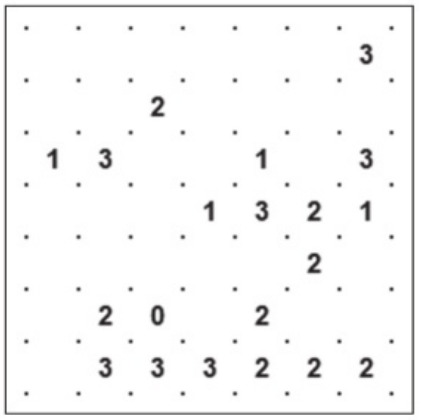
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



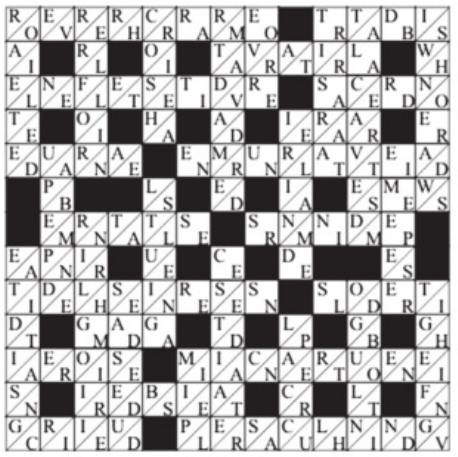
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



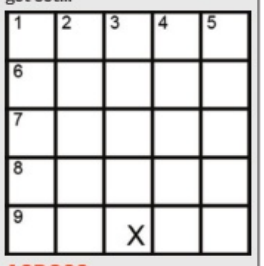
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

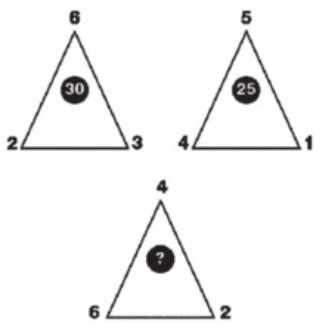
1 Mause; 6 Id Pen;
7 Ail I a; 8 Taros;
9 Sex TU

DOWN

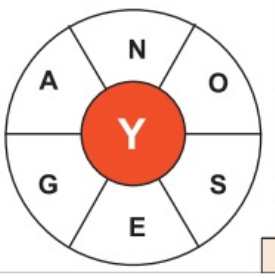
1 Trapa; 2 Ma IOU;
3 Lux an; 4 I sees;
5 Tides

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7	5	6	2	1			
	8	9				3		
		1					6	5
7	4		2					
			7		9			
					5		7	8
9	3					4		
		4				1	2	
			4	8	6	5	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
4 5 5 8

Medium = 24
9 6 5 3

Hard = 32
3 6 9 5

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

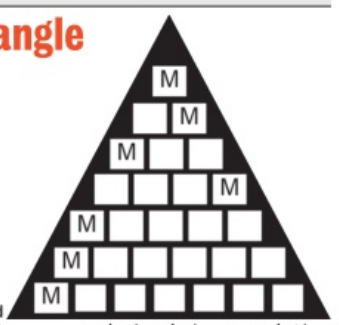
Differences: 1. Arm is lower. 2. Pitcher's sleeve is different. 3. Player's leg is moved. 4. Stripe is added to pitcher's pants. 5. Ear is smaller. 6. Neckline is different.

Riddler

Ahead of us, a life of servitude lies There is no funeral when one of us dies Below the surface, we perform our duty But we're not miners or in search of booty We join forces if our mission requires Forming a "chain gang" that one day expires Destined for a multitude of thankless jobs Although none of us ever complains or sobs Varying, yet with this similarity We're all characterized by polarity

Alpha triangle

1 Meter, abbr.
2 In the morning
3 Floor protector
4 Crew
5 Had in mind
6 It's attractive
7 Purplish red

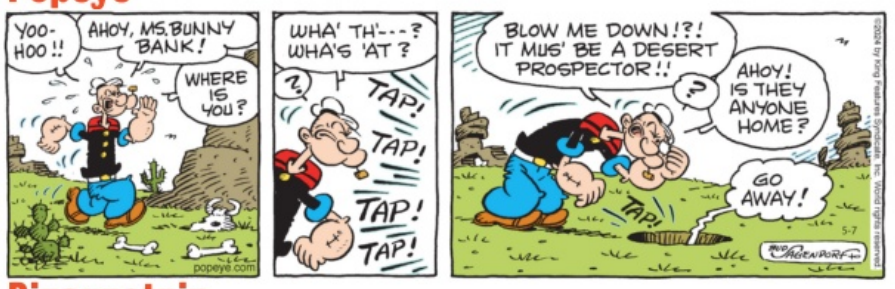


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

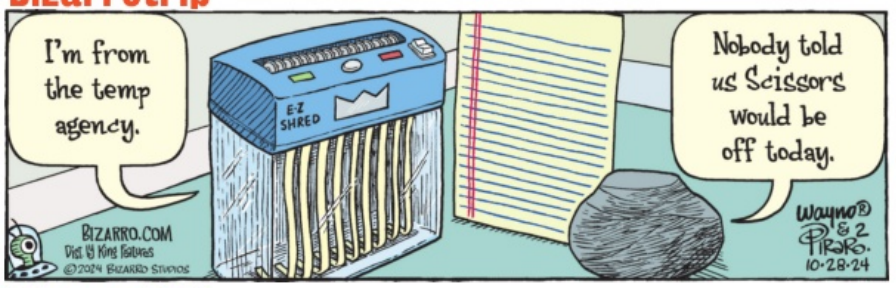
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

SO YOU WANT US TO SNEAK YOU TWO INTO THE "MAMMA MIA!" DOUBLE FEATURE?
WE USED TO SNEAK INTO THAT THEATER A FEW YEARS AGO CUZ THEY DON'T HAVE ASSIGNED SEATS.
AND THEN WE JUST LET KIDS IN FROM THE SIDE DOOR.
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A PLAN!
WE'LL TAKE THAT AS AN ENTHUSIASTIC YES!

Crankshaft

TALES FROM THE SCRYPTS
THE PIZZA MONSTER ft. FRANKENSTEIN
THE MONSTER OF THE CENTER!!
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD WORK ON NAPKINS MORE OFTEN!
THE COVER SHOULD LOOK LIKE THIS!

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. A new partnership may bring significant benefits. Your energy and enthusiasm will be high, and your hard work is likely to pay off in financial gains. Self-respect will help protect you from negativity in your surroundings.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The moon's negative influence may upset you today. Sleeplessness could lead to anxiety, disrupting your daily routine. It's advised that you avoid risky adventures and rash driving. Spending on unnecessary items might create negative energy around you and impact your savings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon; small investments may yield substantial profits. Your working efficiency will improve, allowing you to achieve success with less effort. Positive news regarding legal matters is likely, and you'll maintain control over opponents and rivals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Patience will be crucial today. Overwork may leave you feeling tired and lazy. If you're considering an adventure trip, it's best to postpone it. Past investments might not bring the expected returns. Students are advised to work harder. Health concerns such as backaches, nervous system issues, or skin conditions may arise.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel better today as situations come under control. Your professional network could assist in work-related matters. This is an excellent time to enhance domestic harmony and your love life. Creativity may lead you to purchase artefacts or plan outings with friends or family.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, sleeplessness may cause dullness, scattering your focus from your goals and affecting your work efficiency. A visit to a religious place might be considered. However, by evening, blessings from elders may bring clarity, helping you plan better for the coming days. You are advised to be attentive to your parents' health.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Creativity is at its peak today, and you might plan renovations at home or the office, which could enhance your social status. Harmony with your spouse and others may improve, bringing peace to domestic life. Disputes with friends, coworkers, or partners are likely to be resolved. Positive outcomes in legal matters are expected.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today is a good day. A balanced approach to earnings and expenses will strengthen your finances today. Your network, siblings, and subordinates may prove helpful in implementing your plans. A visit to elders or a religious place could also be on the agenda.

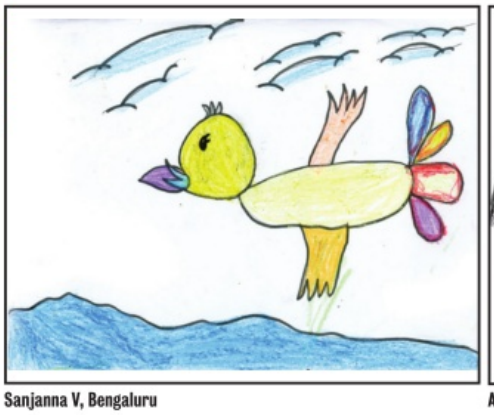
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today may involve reconnecting with old friends or participating in social gatherings. You'll feel excited and may explore innovative business ideas. Unexpected material gains are likely, and children may bring good news regarding their studies. Lovebirds will cherish quality moments together.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the day may begin with some dullness that could impact your productivity. However, blessings from elders may restore your momentum by the afternoon. You'll focus on your children's health and remain victorious against enemies or rivals. Investors should be cautious when making significant decisions. Stomach issues might require attention.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Happiness at work will define your day today. Important decisions made by the day's end will benefit your future. A short trip could be on the cards. Your subordinates will be supportive, and good news about your sibling's success may arrive. Victory in legal matters is possible, and students will stay focused on their goals.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is a good day. Your communication skills will shine today, boosting your professional progress. Politeness towards those around you will speed up your projects. Lovebirds might exchange ideas that lay the groundwork for a stronger relationship.

KIDZONE



Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

Ananya, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5-1+5-0+5
5+1+5
5+5
10

BULL'S EYE
agony, easy, NOSEGAY, nosy, yoga

FAST FIVE

A	M	U	S	E
P	I	N	E	D
A	A	L	I	I
R	O	A	S	T
T	U	X	E	S

RIDDLER Batteries

QUOTE UNCODE
Many people despise wealth, but few know how to give it away.

STRIKE OUT

O	V	E	R	C	A	M	E	T	A	B	S			
I	L		O	A	V	A	I	L		W				
L	E	F	T	S	I	D	E		A	E	R	O		
E		I		H		A		E	R		R			
D	U	N	E		E	M	U	L	A	T	E	D		
	P		S		E		A		E	M	S			
E	N	A	T	E		S	N	I	D	E				
A	N	I		U		E		D		E				
I	D	L	E	N	E	S	S		S	O	R	T		
D		G	A	G		T		P		B		H		
I	R	I	S		M	A	C	A	R	O	N	I		
N		R	E	S	I	T		R		L		N		
G	R	I	D		L	E	A	C	H	I	N	G		

QUICK

I	N	N	S		I	N	T	R	U	D	E	R		
		O		S				A				E		
A	U	T	O	N	O	M	Y		A	B	E	L		
G		N		L		R		N		D				
U	N	I	F	Y		S	T	O	R	I	E	D		
		L		D				D		E		I		
S	I	C	K	E	N		C	A	R	E	O	F		
		E		N				R						
Y	E	M	E	N	I	S		P	L	E	A	D		
E		A		N		L			V		E			
L		S		R		O		C		H		C		
L	I	S	T		A	T	A	P	I	N	C	H		
D		O		C		A		R		O		C		
A	D	A	P	T	I	N	G		O	C	T	A		

MENSA PUZZLE
32. In each triangle, add together the top 2 digits, and multiply this by the lower 2 digits, and value written in the centre of the triangle.

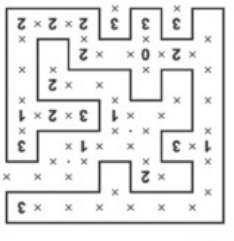
SUDOKU

3	7	5	6	2	1	8	4	9
6	8	9	5	7	4	3	1	2
4	2	1	8	9	3	7	6	5
7	4	3	2	6	8	9	5	1
5	6	8	7	1	9	2	3	4
1	9	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	3	6	1	5	2	4	8	7
8	5	4	9	3	7	1	2	6
2	1	7	4	8	6	5	9	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
M, Am, Mat, Team, Meant, Magnet, Magenta.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 5 – 8 + 5 = 6
Medium
6 x 5 + 3 – 9 = 24
Hard
3 x 6 + 5 + 9 = 32

LOOP



KAKURO

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Emilia Perez star Karla sorry for posts— Karla Sofia Gascon, the Oscar-nominated star of 'Emilia Perez', has issued an apology after social media posts from her past caused a stir. She is said to have made insensitive comments on social media years ago

'My image, my choice'

PC reveals disturbing comment made by director during her early career

Priyanka Chopra Jonas, a prominent figure in the film industry, has frequently discussed her experiences with objectification by those in power. At a recent event, she recounted a disturbing incident from her early career when a director insisted on seeing her panties for a film.

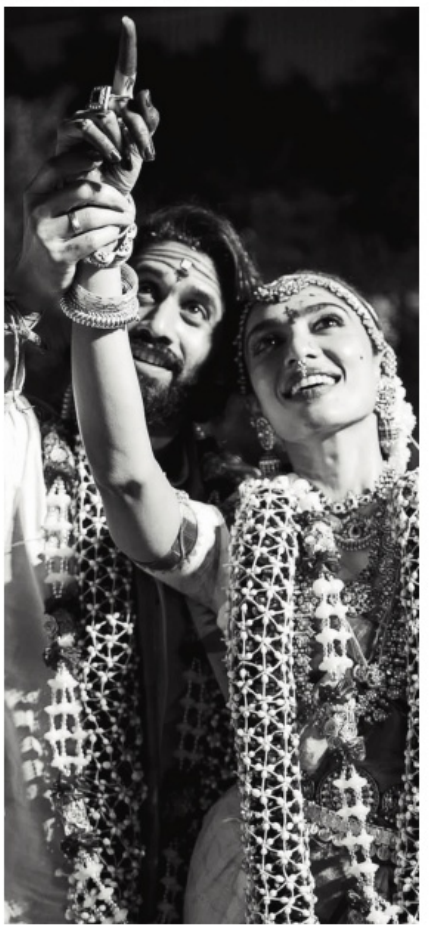
The actress recalled, "I was speaking to the director, and I said, 'Would you speak to my stylist and just explain to him what you want in terms of clothes and stuff? I'm standing right next to him. He picks up the phone and goes, 'Listen, people are going to come into the movies to watch her when she shows her panties. So it needs to be really short so that I can see her panties. You know those people sitting up front? They should be able to see her panties.' And he said it like four times. And it's not even pretty in Hindi. It's worse."

The actor, who was just 19 at the time, confessed to her mother, Madhu Chopra. She recalled, "I went back home that night and said, 'Mom, I can't look at his face. If that's what he thinks of me, if that's how small I am, there's no space for growth.' And I just walked out of the movie and said, 'I'm sorry, I can't work.' And I've, to date, never worked with him. Whatever I decide to be will be my choice. How I want to be perceived will be my choice. Perception is reality, and my perception is going to be my identity."

On the work front, Priyanka Jonas is set to make her comeback to Indian cinema with an untitled film directed by SS Rajamouli, featuring Mahesh Babu.

—ETimes

Happy married life



Naga Chaitanya spoke about his married life with Sobhita Dhulipala. In a recent interview, he said life after marriage has been "great" and that they have managed to balance their personal and professional lives well.

The actor told Hindustan Times that he is enjoying married life and described it as great. He mentioned that although it has only been a few months, both he and Sobhita Dhulipala equally prioritise work and personal time, maintaining a good work-life balance, which was something they deeply connected over.

When asked what he and Sobhita have in common besides being successful actors, Naga Chaitanya said they both have roots in Andhra, with Sobhita from Vizag—a place he loves. Their cultural similarities, passion for cinema, curiosity about life, and love for travel brought them closer and sparked many conversations. Naga Chaitanya is preparing for the release of his upcoming film Thandel. At the trailer launch event in Vizag, he spoke about his wife, Sobhita Dhulipala, who is from the city. He fondly mentioned that Vizag is special to him as he married a girl from there and now has a piece of Vizag at home. He jokingly urged fans to support Thandel at the box office, saying it would help him maintain his honour at home.

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala got married on December 4, 2024, at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad.

—ETimes

Film that appeals to all audiences

NODIDAVARU ENANTHARE
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Kuldeep Cariappa
- **ACTORS** Haveen Shankar, Apoorva Bharadwaj, Padmavati Rao, Sonu Gowda, Shwetha Srinivas, Ayra
- **CERTIFICATION** U/a
- **Duration** 136 minutes

Director Kuldeep Cariappa, known for helming BTS, has proved his mettle once again by handling the megaphone with aplomb for this movie. Cariappa has made sure the film is packed with elements that keep audiences hooked for more than two hours.

The director has made an attempt to convey a message to youth who get in and out of relationships. Another message is to parents on the need to give their children some space while selecting a profession or life partner.

The movie begins with Siddharth aka Siddhu (Naveen Shankar), a web designer, struggling to focus on his job due to his sour relationship with his girlfriend (Sonu Gowda). Siddharth goes to a pub with Ashika (Ayra Krishna), an intern where he sees his girlfriend with another man. Siddharth has to go to his hometown to attend his father's funeral. At this juncture, the audiences are told that his mother abandoned him when he was a two-year-old and his father did not marry again. He wants to come back to Bengaluru, but he gets a message that he has been fired for not completing the project on time. He choses to focus on writing and wants to interview Janaki Devi, a well-known writer in Mumbai. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Siddharth.

Ashwin Kennedy's cinematography is a visual treat while Mayuresh Adhikari's music is lilting.

Naveen Shankar, known for movies such as Gultoo and Hondisi Bareyiri, has once again proved his mettle in this movie. His dialogue delivery and gestures are superb. Apoorva Bharadwaj looks good and can go places. Veteran actress Padmavati Rao steals the show with her sterling performance. Rajesh, who plays a shepherd, Mallanna, has acted well.

Chetan provides good support.

The movie is worth a watch for all.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

On an adventurous trip

#PARU PARVATHI
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Rohit Keerthy
- **ACTORS** Deepika Das, Poonam Sirnaik, Fawaz Ashraf, KS Sridhar, Mahantesh Hiremath, Raghu
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 161 minutes

Rohit Keerthy's maiden movie as a director has succeeded in transporting audiences from Uttarahalli to Mathura and Uttarakhand. The travel drama has elements such as action, romance, and emotion. The movie also conveys a message to society, especially to youths busy with their jobs, on the importance of spending quality time with their elderly parents to ensure they don't feel lonely or neglected.

The movie begins with Sanjeev and Archana, the son and daughter-in-law of Paru aka Parvathi (Poonam Sirnaik) discussing with each other about their routine and asking Paru whether she took her tablets on time. Paru, feeling lonely, contacts Payal (Deepika Das), who manages a YouTube channel - Journey and Journey – to take her on a trip to meet her husband (KS Sridhar), an army officer with whom she has not been on talking terms for 50 years. Payal agrees. Both visit different places, meet different people on the way to the army camp. They also meet Madhu (Fawaz Ashraf), a travel enthusiast who knows how to travel without spending money. He also makes excuses such as not having any change other than Rs 2,000 notes, to make people pay for his food and other needs.

Deepika Das, as a girl who underwent trauma of broken betrothal and ready to help others, has acted well. She looks good and is convincing in action scenes. Poonam Sirnaik has done justice to the character. Fawaz Ashraf, KS Sridhar, Raghu Ramanakoppa, who acted as a hapless driving instructor, and Prashant Natana provide good support. Cinematographer Abin Rajesh has done an excellent job. Music by R Hari is good. The film could have been better had the director cut the movie's runtime by 10-15 minutes.

It is worth a watch for families.

—Y Maheswara Reddy